INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national Application No

T/IB2004/051437 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C25C3/06 C25C3/08 C25C7/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 4 670 110 A (UPPERMAN GARY V ET AL) 24,25 2 June 1987 (1987-06-02) column 22, line 45 - line 65; claim 3; Α 1-23,26figures 8-11 X US 4 214 956 A (BOWMAN KENNETH A) 24,25 29 July 1980 (1980-07-29) A column 3, line 5 - line 15; figure 1 1-23,26column 4, line 57 - line 69; claims 1.7; example 2 X US 4 115 215 A (DAS SUBODH K ET AL) 24,25 19 September 1978 (1978-09-19) Α column 2, line 38 - line 52; claim 1; 1-23,26, figures 1. column 4, line 33 - line 40; example 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken atone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means AVAILABLE *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 10 November 2004 18/11/2004

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